



# THE DIABLO AVIATOR

## Welcome Conco Aviation Center!



The 39,000-square foot hangar at 700 Sally Ride Drive at Buchanan Field has a new operator, Conco Aviation Center.

Conco Aviation Center is a subsidiary of the locally headquartered Conco Companies. The Conco Companies specialize in all aspects of concrete construction. Their mission is to be the best supplier of concrete services in the Western United States. Conco's latest acquisition will provide efficient, safe, secure, and cost-effective aviation services at Buchanan Field Airport for themselves and other businesses and individuals in the area.

Conco Aviation Center has already begun to improve the property's appearance with landscape improvements. They are in the design phase to enhance the hangar with a new lobby and office space which will support the hangar operations.

With their 27'6" high hangar doors, Conco Aviation Center can accommodate varying business jets, as well as, personal aircraft. Conco Aviation Center is excited to become the newest aircraft storage business at the Buchanan Field Airport.

## SUMMER 2017

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*"It is possible to fly without motors.  
But not without knowledge and skill."  
- Wilbur Wright*

## Contra Costa County Airports Emergency Response Role

Contra Costa County Airports, Buchanan Field and Byron Airport, are established emergency facilities in the event of a major natural disaster.

Buchanan Field is a primary arrival and trans-loading location for federal resources arriving in to the region. Resources directed to Buchanan Field by truck will be reconfigured for Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) rotary wing airlift to provide supplies to the incident site.

Staging operations at Buchanan Field may require support from Department of Defense (DoD). Support may include the capability to coordinate, load, and offload resources and equipment by air

and includes marshaling, airfield reception, and outloading as well as receiving and disposing of resources at the offload airfield. The capability may be referred to as an arrival/departure airfield control group or A/DACG.

Contra Costa County Airports will most likely also become base camps for other entities, such as PG&E, to return services back to full operation in the community.

In addition, Byron would become the general aviation reliever airport for Buchanan Field operations in the event of a major disaster in Central County.

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## Is DART coming to Buchanan Field?

The California Pilots Association (CalPilots) has embarked on an ambitious program to build a statewide network of local disaster airlift response teams (DART). To date, 3 DART chapters have been established and 6 more are in development throughout the State.

DART chapters provide volunteer airlift resources to communities and emergency responders. When called upon, participating volunteer pilots and their aircraft transport people and supplies to where they are needed.

The Mount Diablo Pilots Association (MDPA) believes Contra Costa County and nearby communities will benefit greatly by having access to a local DART chapter. Therefore, it is establishing a DART charter at Buchanan Field (CCR).

The MDPA's DART mission is to organize and provide volunteer airlift and ground support resources and services in response to declared disasters and other emergency events. They will operate in concert with broader emergency response plans, and in support of agencies and volunteer organizations needing airlift assistance.

Airlift services under consideration by MDPA include:

- *Small Aircraft Airlift* of food, supplies and emergency workers to impacted areas, as well as evaluation of people and their pets.
- *Air Reconnaissance Assistance* associated with search & rescue, and aerial damage assessments.
- *Small Aircraft Airport Ground Operations & Logistics* including;
  - Flight Dispatching & Tracking
  - Aircraft Movement & Parking
  - Aircraft Refueling, Loading/Off Loading
  - Passengers & Supplies Staging
- *Mutual Assistance* to other DART chapters and emergency response organizations across the State

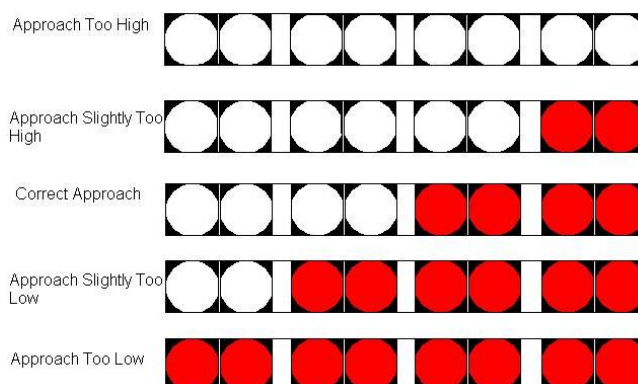
To learn more about the MDPA DART, or if interested in helping, please contact DeWitt Hodge via email at [dewitt.hodge@comcast.net](mailto:dewitt.hodge@comcast.net) or call at 925-448-7378.

Learn more about the CalPilots statewide DART program at: <https://calpilots.org/dart/>.

## Buchanan Field Projects

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) is upgrading the Visual Approach Slope Indicators (VASI's) to Precision Approach Path Indicators (PAPI's), at Buchanan Field. The new PAPI's are being installed on Runways 1L, 19R and 32R (please see attached diagram). The FAA started construction in July 2017 and will be completed around the end of October. The VASI's will be operational during the construction period.

**PAPI** primarily assists by providing visual glide slope guidance in non-precision approaches environment (pictured right). These systems have an effective visual range of at least 3 miles during the day and up to 20 miles at night. The row of light units is normally installed on the left side of the runway and the light combinations indicate when the glide path is significantly high (4 white ●●●●), slightly high (3 white ●●●●), the proper glide path angle of approach two white (2 red ●●●●), slightly low (3 red ●●●●) and significantly low (4 red ●●●●).



Please be sure to check Flight Services for the most current NOTAMs affecting the Airport. As always, please contact Airports staff at (925) 681-4200 with any questions.

## Txy E/K Reconstruction Rwy 14L-32R Design

The reconstruction of the north end of Taxiway Echo and the pavement overlay of Taxiway Kilo was completed in July 2017. The project began in August 2016 but was delayed after inclement weather during the winter.

The project improved pavement conditions and markings on the two taxiways. It also included reconstructing the compass rose.

Airport staff greatly appreciated everyone's cooperation with runway and taxiway closures that were required to complete the project.

Thank you!

The design engineering for the rehabilitation of Runway 14L-32R is in process.

The project includes identification of rehabilitation alternatives, such as; mill and overlay, cold-in-place recycling, or full depth reconstruction. The project may also include markings, signage, and lighting enhancements.

Airport staff expects to submit an FAA Airport Improvement Program (AIP) grant for the project construction. The project is tentatively scheduled for implementation in 2019.

## CCR Upcoming Project

The County Airports Division received a FAA AIP grant (\$278,460) and Caltrans grant (\$13,923) to perform an update to the Airport Layout Plan (ALP) for Buchanan Field.

The ALP update will include analyzing the amount of property designated for aviation use to ensure sufficient land is available to meet the projected aviation demand. Depending on the aviation demand forecasts, it is possible that the update process may recommend changing current aviation to non-aviation uses or vice versa. The project will also include an Airport Geographic Information System element as recommended by the FAA for commercial service airports.



## New Observation Plaza Kiosk Displays

Airport staff has updated the information displayed in the kiosk located within the Buchanan Field Observation Plaza at the end of John Glenn Dr. The three sided kiosk has an updated display showing a brief history of Buchanan Field and Byron Airport, the Stinson and Huey aircraft on display next to the Tower that are used for the Airport Tour program, and a bulletin board for new information and upcoming events. Stop by the public Observation Plaza to take in the sights and sounds of Buchanan Field. Display excerpts below.

### Buchanan Field



### Through the Years

In July 1942, Contra Costa County purchased over 400 acres of land for the airport for \$98,000. Contra Costa County Airports are operated under the umbrella of the County Public Works Department.



A November 1946 aerial view of Buchanan Field looking to the NW with the Concord Naval Weapons Station in the distance. The buildings in the center are the large open nose hangars, offices and the Administration Building with the unused AAF Control Tower, and the aircraft ramp area.



Aerial View of Buchanan Field 1959

In 1943, World War II necessitated the United States Army to take the Airport from the County to use as a training base for P-39 Airacobras. It was named Buchanan Army Airfield.



A view from the former AAF Control Tower looking SW at one of the surplus office buildings used for airport tenants. All of the airport buildings, as well as the runways and taxi ways, were built by the Army Air Forces for Concord Army Air Field (Concord AAF) and used by the County until new buildings could be constructed.

On August 4, 1946 the airport was returned to the County by an Instrument of Transfer, with a total of Approximately 495 acres. It was named after County Supervisor Bill Buchanan who served 46 years as a County Supervisor and 30 years as Chairman of the Board. Supervisor Buchanan was known as "Mr. Contra Costa."



November 1943 - The 444th Fighter Squadron of the Airforce during World War II at Buchanan Field  
Bottom Row, left to right: Ross, Kaelin, Stevens, Major Jones, McIntosh, Pfeiffer, Swann and Bloomer  
Top Row, left to right: Baldwin, Patton, Jay, Ramp, Cook, Stewart, Thompson, unknown member and Reed

### Byron Airport

1993 Contra Costa County purchases Byron Air Park and begins to retrofit the site as the County's second airport, approximately 3 miles south of Byron, CA.

Byron Airport (C83) opened to the public in 1994 to provide greater service to the eastern part of Contra Costa County. The administrative office is located at 500 Eagle Court.

The new airport is situated on 1307 acres of land, of which 814 acres are reserved as Habitat Management Land (HML). The HML is habitat for

special-status species including the San Joaquin kit fox, the California tiger salamander, the California red-legged frog and others.

Byron Airport is an ideal facility for general aviation and a popular base for skydivers, gliders and other recreational flight activities.

Byron Airport is the home of the Patriot Jet team and foundation, a non-profit organization dedicated to inspiring the youth of America with a love of aviation and aerospace





## Housekeeping Briefs

### Stormwater: Sampling Frequency Reduction

Buchanan Field Airport is eligible for a reduction in sampling frequency for stormwater compliance within the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES).

Facilities in full compliance with the Industrial General Permit that did not have Numeric Action Level (NAL) exceedances for four (4) consecutive Qualified Storm Events (QSEs) are unlikely to pose a significant threat to water quality and are eligible for a reduction in sampling frequency. Buchanan Field must still comply with all other requirements of the Industrial General Permit.

Thank you to all of our tenants and users for helping us meet our regulatory obligations under the Industrial General Permit and promoting pollution prevention in our water ways and Bay.

### Buchanan Field Hangar Inspections

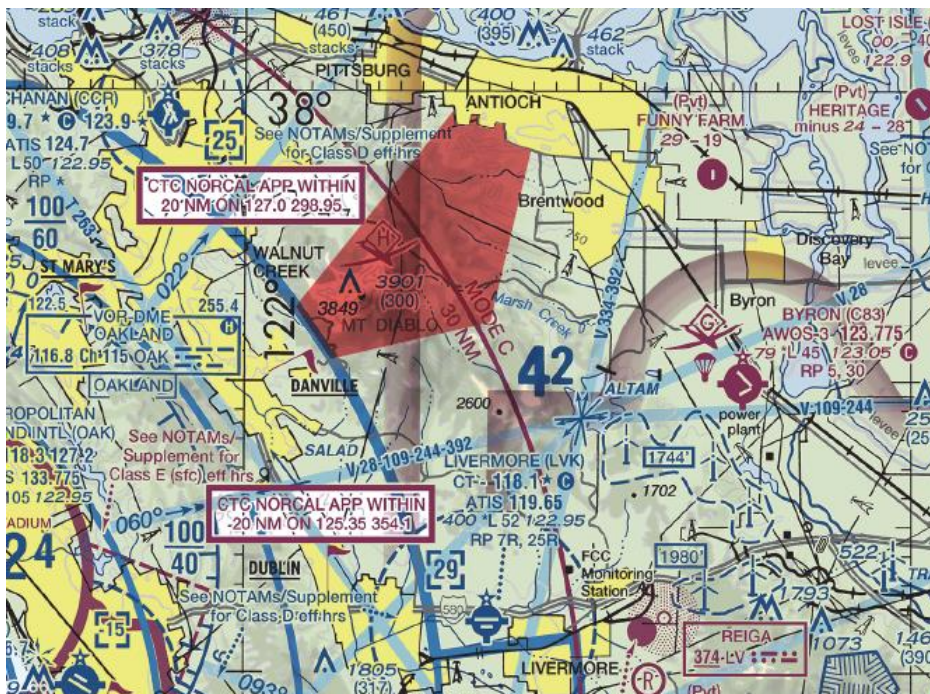
Buchanan Field Airport hangar and building inspections will take place in 2018. Airport staff is in the process of planning the scheduling of inspections for the convenience and ease of everyone involved.

The main focus of the inspections is to ensure the use of the premises is in accordance with the governing agreement, i.e. lease, license, or rental agreement.

Please note that an aircraft must be the primary item to be stored in a hangar.

Keep an eye out for more information as the process becomes formalized.

### Pilots: Aerobic Practice Area Location



\* Pictured: area shaded in red is a general depiction of the aerobic operations space as detailed by FAA regulation 91.303. Contact the local FAA Flight Standards District Office if you have any questions, (510) 748-0122.

Concerned citizens in East County have contacted Airports staff regarding aerobic maneuvers being performed near their homes (generally south of Antioch and west of Brentwood). Once considered an informal open space used for flight practice, this area is now experiencing considerable growth as Brentwood and Antioch communities continue to expand.

Pilots looking to hone their skills are encouraged to utilize designated aerobic practice areas near other airports in the Bay Area and to avoid residential developments. Airports staff appreciates its pilots' disseminating this information and their positive response to community concerns and reducing aircraft noise.

## Buchanan Field's Gerald Alves Receives FAA Award

On June 8, 2017, Gerald (Jerry) Alves received the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) *The Wright Brothers Master Pilot Award*. *The Wright Brothers Master Pilot Award* is the most prestigious award the FAA issues to pilots. The award is named after the Wright Brothers, the first US pilots, to recognize individuals who have exhibited professionalism, skill, and aviation expertise for at least 50 years while piloting aircraft as "Master Pilots".

Jerry has been a pilot at Buchanan Field (CCR) for fifty-four (54) years with his first flying lesson coming in 1963 at the age of 16 and his first solo shortly after in July of 1964 at Pacific States Aviation. Jerry's passion for aviation began when reading *Flying Magazine* at age 12 and from that point on he read everything on aviation and flying he could get his hands on. To pay for his flight lessons, Mr. Alves worked for his father's construction business digging ditches. Jerry's best memory is all the old time pilots that were happy to share their experiences and wisdom with a young kid who wanted to learn from them.

Mr. Alves has been at Buchanan Field for many historical occasions including the construction of the East Ramp Hangars in 1974 and the first LCA hangar in 1984. In his time at Buchanan Field, Jerry has had the pleasure of meeting Jim Arness, Phyllis Diller, Steve Fossett, Hal Lindsey, and the cast of "American Graffiti" when they filmed a scene on the field. His list of celebrities that have come through Buchanan Field is very long "because Concord was and still is a great destination."

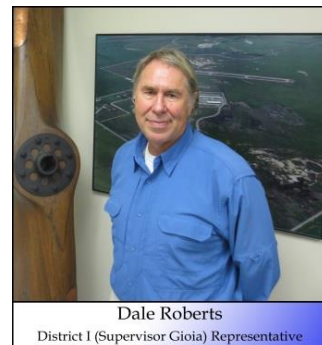
One of Mr. Alves shining aviation moments was when he flew in the great 1989 airlift taking food and supplies to Watsonville after the Loma Prieta Earthquake. He remembers, "there were so many planes it was like a line of ants between here and Watsonville. That airlift proved beyond any doubt the value of the Concord airport, especially in an emergency." Congratulations to Mr. Alves on receiving this prestigious award.

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## Airport Advisory Committee (AAC) Member Changes



The Contra Costa County Airports thanks Rudi Raab for six years (2011-2017) as the District I representative for Supervisor Gioia on the AAC committee. Rudi's ideas, input, and enthusiasm were most helpful and assisted in making valuable improvements to both the Buchanan Field and Byron Airport. We will miss your helpful presence on the committee.



The Contra Costa County Airports is pleased to welcome Dale Roberts to the AAC committee as the new District I representative for Supervisor Gioia. Dale brings decades of experience to the committee as a commercially rated pilot and a current member of the Northern California Soaring Association located at the Byron Airport.

## Airport Events Recap

### Young Eagles at Byron Airport

On Saturday June 17, 2017, the Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) Chapter 393 and the Civil Air Patrol cadet ground crew volunteers collaborated with Byron Jet Center to host their first Young Eagles program at Byron Airport.

The Young Eagles program exposes young people, ages 8 through 17, to aviation by providing free rides in private aircraft flown by experienced EAA members. 35 Young Eagles were introduced to the flight simulators at the Byron Jet Center while they eagerly awaited their big moment in the sky and Patriot Jet Team volunteer/corporate pilots answered their questions about general and corporate aviation.

The EAA Chapter 393 and the Civil Air Patrol cadet volunteers worked diligently to help make this a very organized and smooth event. It was a resounding success by all involved and they are looking to work together again in the future.

### Wings of Freedom Tour



The Collings Foundation Wings of Freedom Tour flew into Buchanan Field June 8<sup>th</sup> to the 11<sup>th</sup>.

The unique WWII flying history tour presented a wonderful opportunity to experience the beautifully restored aircraft for the young and old alike. Aircraft tours were open to the public, with some taking to the skies in an ultimate flight experience.

Keep an eye skyward for the Wings of Freedom Tour to return in 2018.

### 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Tenant Appreciation BBQ



The 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Tenant Appreciation BBQ was held on May 4, 2017. Over 450 guests from the Buchanan Field and Byron Airport community were treated to some of the finest BBQ fare from Airport Staff.

The annual event is a wonderful opportunity for tenants and business partners to gather, converse with old friends and meet new ones, put a face to some

new Airport employees, and relax as Airports staff shows our appreciation for their business. The event was a wonderful success by everyone involved. No one left hungry and Airports staff was honored to serve all who attended.

Airport staff is already preparing for the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Tenant Appreciation BBQ. Feel free to provide feedback to:

[Airport.Team@airport.cccounty.us](mailto:Airport.Team@airport.cccounty.us).





## Buchanan Field and Byron Airports Watch Program

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Airport security is a top priority for Contra Costa County Airports and your participation is necessary to maintain the utmost level of security at our Airports, Buchanan Field and Byron Airport.

General aviation (GA) airports are like neighborhoods. At a GA airport, rows of homes are replaced with rows of airplanes. Neighbors know neighbors, and it is important for us to team up to prevent unauthorized access, vandalism and theft by utilizing the below procedures if you observe someone or something that looks suspicious or out of place on the airfield.

Being part of an Airport Watch doesn't take extra time. All you have to do is go about your business at the airport - whether it's flying, socializing with fellow aviators, or performing maintenance, and if you see something odd or out of place, then say something by calling **911** in case of an emergency and also call Airports staff at **(925) 333-0140**, any time day or night.

Programs like the Buchanan Field and Byron Airports Watch Program are supported by many law enforcement and aviation agencies.

- **Contra Costa County Sheriff** promotes, "One of the best crime prevention tools is a good neighbor."
- **Aircraft Owners and Pilot's Association (AOPA) Airport Watch Program** promotes, "the best security comes from the people who have a direct stake in the outcome; those who know what is normal and what is not normal at their airports."
- **U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS)** promotes, "'If You See Something, Say Something™'" campaign to raise public awareness of the importance of reporting suspicious activity to state and local law enforcement. Informed, alert communities play a critical role in keeping our state safe."

Airport security is continually re-evaluated and improved upon at the County Airports to maintain the highest level of security possible. In the last year, the following security measures have been implemented to protect our pilots and the community:

- Reinforced perimeter fencing with the addition of 3 strand barb wire top and cipher locks on pedestrian gates
- Increased Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) security cameras (with plans for additional cameras)
- Increased nighttime security patrols in collaboration with Contra Costa County Sheriff
- Enhanced Security Signage





## New Restroom Signage is coming Buchanan Field and Byron Airport

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Buchanan Field and Byron Airport will have new restroom signage installed to comply with state law requiring all single-user toilet facilities in any business establishment, place of public accommodation, or government agency to be identified as available to all genders.

The law defines a "single-user toilet facility" as a restroom "with no more than one water closet and one urinal with a locking mechanism controlled by the user."

Airport users will see the approved single user restrooms signage, which features an equilateral triangle superimposed onto a circle, as pictured right, and will include the acceptable designation sign text: "Restroom."



## Buchanan Field and Byron Airport Recycling

Contra Costa County Airports is increasing their commitment to reducing trash by practicing waste prevention, reusing products, recycling, and making environmentally conscious purchases at Buchanan Field and Byron Airports.

Buchanan Field will be adding recycling containers to the East Ramp, clubhouse and at the public observation plaza at the end of John Glenn Drive.

Byron Airport will have new recycling containers at the Administration building and on the ramp for all users.

The Legislature and Governor Brown set an ambitious goal of 75 percent recycling, composting or source reduction of solid waste by 2020 calling for the state and the Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle) to take a statewide approach to decrease California's reliance on landfills. This represents the next evolutionary phase of waste management in California: an approach that makes current landfill diversion programs equal partners with the materials management program to achieve the highest and best use of all materials in California. These goals cannot be met without motivation and action at multiple levels within both the private and public sectors.

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*The Diablo Aviator is a publication of the Contra Costa County Public Works Airports Division. Past newsletters are available at [www.ContraCostaCountyAirports.org](http://www.ContraCostaCountyAirports.org). The newsletter editor is Daniel Wick. The Director of Airports is Keith Freitas.*

CONTRA COSTA COUNTY  
AIRPORTS

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